

Today, agriculture is on the verge of a new era. I believe that 100 years from now, historians will look back and recognize this time as a turning point in the history of American agriculture. Both locally and globally, things are changing fast.

Agriculture is now a global industry—an industry where American farmers will play an increasingly important role. The Census Bureau estimates that the world population will increase by 50 percent in the next 20 years. Today, 1 American farmer can feed 129 people. Tomorrow that farmer must feed more. America's farmers have already started preparing to meet these demands. Less than 100 years ago, the first gasoline tractor was built. Now, farmers are using satellite technology to customize planting and fertilizer use. That increases yields, reduces costs, and benefits the environment. These are the types of innovative programs we should encourage in the 1995 farm bill.

Mr. President, there is a saying in Kansas: If you do not eat, then do not worry about the farmer. So this week, National Ag Week, we recognize that each of us has a vested interest in the vitality of American agriculture. I look forward to working with my colleagues during this pivotal year to ensure that American agriculture remains a world leader in this new era.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today, as America celebrates National Agriculture Week, I rise to pay tribute to our country's farmers and ranchers.

THE GROWING SEASON

This Tuesday was the first day of spring. The time of rebirth and renewal. All over the country, farmers are preparing to till the soil and plant the seeds that they hope will lead to a bountiful harvest. Ranchers see newborn calves and lambs. In Montana and across America, producers are getting ready for the future with hope and confidence.

They know only too well that lack of rain, too much rain, or other uncontrollable natural events can destroy their crop. They know they are in a risky business. And yet they continue to brave the risks and work long hours, because of the satisfaction that comes with working and living on your own land.

These are hard working folks. They are survivors who make up Montana's number one industry, creating nearly \$2 billion a year for our economy. And their work gives Americans the best, cheapest and safest food supply in the world.

BEFORE THE FARM PROGRAM

Today we take all that for granted. We think it is natural. But it is not. It is the result of careful policy, and cooperation between producers, consumers, and government.

As we begin to redraft our farm bill this year—and as some with short

memories call for eliminating farm programs completely—we should remember what happened before we had any farm programs.

In those days, producers lived through drastic cycles of boom and bust. A hard-working and prosperous family one year could be destitute the next.

As Mike Malone recalls in his book "Montana: A History of Two Centuries":

During 1929-1930, a new ordeal of drought and depression began in Montana . . . By midsummer of that terrible year, twenty-eight of Montana's fifty-six counties had filed for aid from the Red Cross. Most of those counties lay in the arc of dry-farming and stockgrowing lands that reached from the High Line north of the Missouri River to the southeast along the Dakota state line . . .

An amount of wheat worth \$100 in 1920 brought only \$19.23 in 1932. Beef cattle sold for \$9.10 per hundredweight in 1929; in 1934, the price was only \$3.34. Sheep brought \$8.14 per hundredweight in 1929 but only \$3.12 in 1934.

Daniels County, in the state's northeastern corner, typified the crisis. During the good years of the late 1920s, the country seat, Scobey, had advertised itself as the world's largest wheat shipping point. By the spring of 1933, 3,500 of the county's 5,000 people needed relief assistance.

SUCCESS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

This disaster was only the worst in a series. The heartland suffered equally traumatic disasters in 1893, 1907 and 1920. But this time, Franklin Roosevelt responded by creating the first Federal farm support programs.

Since then, we have had good times and bad. But farm programs have prevented crises on that scale. And during this time, American farmers have created a productive revolution unmatched in history.

They have revolutionized agricultural productivity. They have used hard work and state-of-the-art research, to develop new sustainable farming techniques, thus protecting our natural resources. And they continue to be most productive agricultural producers in the world.

According to USDA's Economic Research Service, farm output per unit of input increased by 26 percent between 1982 and 1991.

As a result, Americans spend the lowest amount of their disposable income on food of any nation in the world. Just 9.3 percent, less than a dime in a dollar of income.

THE 1995 FARM BILL

Today, if the Congress goes too far in a thoughtless rush to eliminate farm programs simply for the sake of cutting, we could return to those days of boom and bust.

Less severe consequences could include lower soil and water quality. Loss of wildlife habitat.

Lower farm incomes, and thus higher rates of outmigration from rural America. From the consumer's point of view, if we are not careful, America could wind up depending on imports of food to give our citizens enough to eat each day.

We must help our producers make American agriculture more competitive and more profitable in the international market place. We must continue to develop new sustainable farming techniques. We must make sure the children and grandchildren of today's rural families can still live and work on their own land.

Mr. President, I look forward to the job. The FFA, the national youth organization for the improvement of agriculture, begins their creed with the statement, "I believe in the future of farming." I believe in that future, too.

Thank you, and I yield the floor.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of Greek Independence Day, a national day of celebration marking 174 years of freedom for the modern Greek people. The achievements of ancient Greece in art, architecture, science, mathematics, philosophy, drama, literature, and most importantly—democracy—have become legacies for succeeding ages to emulate. Modern Greece, born of these same roots, also has given much to the present day world and especially to the United States.

Many Americans can trace their heritage back to the glory of Athens. Greek-American Dr. George Kotzias developed medicine to combat the scourge of Parkinson's disease. Maria Callas, the Brooklyn-born opera soprano, provided us a legacy of beautiful music. Young Pete Sampras reminds us of the important contribution the Greeks have made in the field of athletics as he continues his outstanding command of the game of tennis. Greek-Americans have also contributed to the might of America's business and industry showing true entrepreneurial spirit. In Operation Desert Storm, Lt. Gen. William "Gus" Pagonis, U.S. Army, retired, successfully commanded the most complex sea, land, and air mobilization executed by a military force since the Second World War. And, of course, in this body today are two of the most outstanding Greek-American citizens in this country, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE and Senator PAUL SARBANES.

On Monday, I will be visiting with a number of other Greek-American leaders to commemorate Greek Independence Day. Foremost among them will be his His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America.

On this day, it is important to remember that American democracy would not exist today had the Greeks not believed in the power of the people to govern. As Pericles said some 2,000 years ago, "our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of the minority, but of the